

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-23, 25-29, 31, and 33-44 remain in the application with claims 1, 18, 23, and 40 having been amended hereby and claims 10, 24, 30, and 32 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Sato I in view of Feamster and Sato II and Sato III and Boon and Ueno and Satou.

In paragraph 30 of the Instant Official Action claims 10, 18, 32, and 40 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claim 18 has been placed in independent form.

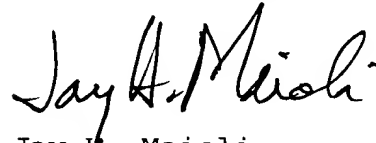
Claim 23 has been amended hereby to include the limitations of claims 32, 30, and 24. Claims 32, 30, and 24 have been canceled.

Claim 40 has been amended to be in independent form.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in all independent claims in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line at the end.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:tb